United Nations A/67/579

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 November 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 14 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 12 November 2012 addressed to you from Mr. Hilmi Akil, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 17 October 2012, I am writing in order to set the record straight in relation to the allegations contained in the letter dated 28 September 2012 addressed to the President of the General Assembly by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York, which was also circulated as a document of the General Assembly on 2 October 2012 (A/67/491).

The effort of the Greek Cypriot representative in the said letter to link the legitimate and legal Turkish intervention in Cyprus in 1974 with the inhuman and unlawful isolation that has been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people since 1963 is a futile attempt to conceal the Greek Cypriot administration's responsibility for the inception and continuation of the Cyprus problem, while at the same time creating a false pretext to perpetuate the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people.

As you are well aware, as one of the guarantors in Cyprus, Turkey intervened in 1974, under the 1960 International Treaties, in order to save the Turkish Cypriots from total annihilation following the coup d'état engineered by Greece and its Greek Cypriot collaborators in Cyprus to realize *enosis* (annexation of the island to Greece). Thus, the well-known Greek Cypriot rhetoric of "invasion" and "occupation" is nothing but a propaganda tool aimed at distorting the legal political realities pertaining to Cyprus. In fact, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted on 29 July 1974 resolution 573, inter alia, in which it condemned "the coup d'état carried out in Cyprus by officers owing allegiance to the Greek military dictatorship" and expressed regret over "the failure of the attempt to reach a diplomatic settlement which led the Turkish Government to exercise its right of intervention in accordance with Article 4 of the Guarantee Treaty of 1960". In a similar vein, the Athens Court of Appeal, in its decision of 21 March 1979 (Decision No. 2658/79), underlined that: "... The Turkish military intervention in Cyprus, which was carried out in accordance with the Zurich and London Agreements, was legal. Turkey, as one of the Guarantor powers, had the right to fulfil her obligations. The real culprits ... are the Greek Officers who engineered and staged a coup and prepared the conditions for this intervention".

The inhuman embargoes that have been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people at the instigation of the so-called Republic of Cyprus date back to 1963, when the Turkish Cypriots were confined to small enclaves, the total area of which corresponded to a mere 3 per cent of the territory of Cyprus and lived as refugees relying on Turkish Red Crescent aid. In fact, the inhuman living conditions forced upon the Turkish Cypriot population were described as "veritable siege" by the then United Nations Secretary-General in his report of 10 September 1964 (S/5950 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2) to the Security Council. Today, the Turkish Cypriot people continue to suffer under isolation despite the call of former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan upon on the international community in his report submitted to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437) "to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development, deeming such a move as consistent with Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984)".

As for the claim that Turkey puts at risk the stability of the region, it should be underlined that it is indeed the Greek Cypriot administration that is exacerbating tension in the region by trying to create a fait accompli as regards the hydrocarbon resources of the area. Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot side, on the other hand, have been compelled to take steps to protect their legitimate rights and interests over the natural resources of the region. At the same time, it is again the Turkish Cypriot side that has been taking initiatives to resolve the issue in an amicable and equitable manner. In this regard, I wish to refer to the proposal put forward, as a gesture of goodwill and conciliation by President Derviş Eroğlu in New York on 24 September 2011, and later in a more comprehensive manner on 29 September 2012, regarding the fair and equitable distribution of the hydrocarbon resources of the island. If the Greek Cypriot side is sincere about cooperation and reconciliation regarding the island and the region, there is no justification whatsoever for not responding positively to this constructive proposal.

Against this background, it is clear that the slanderous remarks of the Greek Cypriot representative against Turkey are not corroborated by the legal and historical facts of the island. Thus, instead of levelling unfounded accusations against Turkey and playing the role of the victim in Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot administration should adopt a more positive approach within the context of the efforts carried out for a fair and durable comprehensive settlement in Cyprus under your mission of good offices.

(*Signed*) Hilmi **Akil**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus